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Knapp Fund

ALEXANDER FAMILY RECORDS.

An Account of the First American Settlers
and Colonial Families of the Name of
Alexander, and Other Genealogical and
Historical Data, Mostly New and
Original Material Including
Early Wills and Mar-
riages Heretofore
Unpublished



BY

WILLIAM M. CLEMENS

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ALEXANDER FAMILY RECORDS.

CONTAINING

The Alexanders of Scotland.
Early American Colonists.
Royal Descent of the Alexanders.
The Virginia Family.
Virginia Wills.
Marriages in Virginia.
The Connecticut Family.
Boston Alexanders.
The Maine Family.
Rhode Island Alexanders.
New York in the Revolution.
Pennsylvania Muster Rolls.
Members of Congress.

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY.

Among the early colonists, the Alexander family was conspicuous for worth, ability and service toward the progress and establishment of the nation. The history of the family is necessarily brief.

1. John, Lord of the Isles—Margaret, daughter of Robert II, King of Scotland. From this marriage are descended all of the Alexanders. Their third son, named Alexander, had issue, Alexander, second son, who married, 1480, and his son, Thomas obtained "Menstrie," 1505.

Andrew Alexander, son of Thomas of "Menstrie,"—Catharine Graham, 1500, and had Alexander, who married Elizabeth Douglas, and their youngest son, Andrew, succeeded to "Menstrie," 1544. His son, Alexander of Menstrie—Elizabeth Forges. Their eldest son was William Alexander of "Menstrie," whose eldest son—Marion Contee, 1567, and their only son, William, Lord of Stirling—Janet Erskine. Their son, John Alexander, was the emigrant to Virginia, 1659.

This complete Scotch history is taken from the "House of Alexander," a rare old Scotch book, down to the advent of John Alexander in Vir-

ginia, who purchased all of the land lying between "Hunting Creek" in the South, and the little falls of the Potomac on the North, including the sites of Hunting Creek Warehouse and Arlington.

William Alexander, of Menstrie, bore for arms per pale ar. and sa. a chev. and in base a crescent, all counter charged, quartering McDonald. Crest—a bear sejant, erect ppr. Motto: "Per mare, per terras." Arms of Alexander of Menstrie, first Earl of Stirling, from whom the Virginia family is deduced. He was born 1850, died in London, 1640; knighted, 1613; created Earl of Stirling, 1633.

For the purpose of encouraging the formation of settlements in Canada, Charles I founded the "Order of Nova Scotia Baronets" in Scotland, and Sir William Stirling was created Viscount Canada, and made Secretary of State for Scotland.

Sir William Alexander was a poet of some merit. His son, William, married and died, 1638 (in the lifetime of his father), leaving in infant, who became the second Earl of Stirling, but dying in 1640, the title passed to his uncle, Sir Anthony Alexander, third Earl of Stirling, who, dying without an heir, the title passed to his brother, Sir Henry, fourth Earl of Stirling, in whose family it remained until it passed to the descendants of his brother, John, who had emigrated to America and died, 1667. His son,

John Alexander married Miss Grahame, sold his home, Gartmore, in Scotland, emigrated to America, 1660, and settled in Stafford county, Virginia. His son,

John Alexander, called Capt. John Alexander, probably came over with his father, and obtained Howson's patent in 1669, which embraced all the land from "Great Falls of the Potomac to Great Hunting Creek." He married, had two sons, the "eldest sonne and heire,"

Robert Alexander, married Frances, daughter of Charles Ashton, will probated 1704. Their son,

Robert Alexander, born 1688, died 1735, married Ann (daughter of Col. Gerard Fowke, of Maryland). Issue: John, Gerard, Sarah and Parthenia. (Will on record).

Gerard Alexander, son of Robert and Ann Fowkes, died 1761, married Mary Dent. In will proved in Halifax, names wife, Mary, daughter, Nancy, sons, Robert, Philip, George, Gerard, and daughter, Mary Ann.

George Dent Alexander died without issue. Gerard married Elizabeth Ashton, daughter of Col. William Alexander, of Effingham, and wife, ————Massey; Nancy married Fielding, eldest son of Col. Fielding Lewis and wife, Betty Washington, sister of President George Washington. The will of George Dent Alexander, who died without issue, shows legacies left to the sons

of Fielding Lewis (his nephews).

Nancy Alexander married Fielding, son of Col. Fielding Lewis and Betty Washington, and had children: John, George, Charles, Robert, Elizabeth, Catharine, Nancy and Lucinda.

The Royal descent of the Alexander family is as follows:

Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, married

Lady Isabel, daughter of

Donald, Earl of Mar, and had:

Princess Mary Bruce, who married

Walter, Lord High Steward of England, and had:

Robert II, King of Scotland, who married

Lady Elizabeth Muir, and had:

Princess Catharine Stewart, who married

Sir David Lindsay, Earl of Crawford, and had:

Lady Margery Lindsay, who married

Sir William Douglas, of Lochleven, and had:

Sir Henry Douglas, who married

Lady Elizabeth Erskine, and had:

Robert Douglas, who married Margaret Balfour, had:

Lord Thomas Douglas, who married

Lady Elizabeth, daughter of

Archibald Boyd (son of Lord Robert Boyd, who was Regent of Scotland, 1466). They had:

Lady Elizabeth Douglas, who married

Alexander, Alexander of "Menstrie," 1545,
had:

Lord William Alexander, born 1580; knighted
1613; died 1640; progenitor of the Virginia Alex-
anders

John Alexander, his son, married Miss Graham
Capt. John Alexander left two sons; their son
Robert Alexander, married Frances Ashton,
had:

Robert, born 1618, married Ann Fowke, and
had:

Gerard Alexander, married Mary Dent, and
had:

Nancy Alexander, who married
Fielding Lewis, eldest son of Col. Fielding
Lewis and wife, Betty Washington, sister of
President George Washington.

Archibald Alexander, the Captain in the Sandy
Creek expedition, first sheriff of Rockbridge, Va.,
etc., was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1708,
and there married his cousin, Margaret Parks.
Their oldest child, a daughter, was born in Ireland
in 1735. Coming to America in 1737, he settled
first at Nottingham, Pennsylvania, where four
more children were born, including William, the
oldest son. About the year 1747, the family came
to the Shenandoah Valley and settled in Borden's
Grant, on Timber Ridge. The wife of Captain
Alexander died in 1753. In 1757 he married his

second wife, Jane McClure. Her children were five sons and three daughters. Of Archibald Alexander's children, six sons and six daughters became heads of families. The names of the sons were William, Joseph, John, James, Samuel and Archibald. The son William married Agnes Ann Reid, and was the father of ten children, including the distinguished Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander. The oldest daughter, Elizabeth, married John McClung, and was the mother of Margaret (or Elizabeth) wife of Robert Tate of Augusta, Judge William McClung and others. Mary, a daughter of Captain Alexander's second wife, married John Trimble, first, and afterwards Lewis Jordan.

The blessing of Abraham descended on Capt. Alexander. His descendants are almost as countless as the stars. They embrace Alexanders, McClungs, Tates, Stuarts, Paxtons, Moores, Steeles, Grahams, Campbells, Carutherses, Turners, Rices, McCrarys, Trimbles, Wilsons, Cummings, Scotts, Lyles, Doakes, &c., &c.

Robert Alexander, the founder of the first classical school in Virginia, was a brother of Captain Archibald Alexander, and preceded the latter to America. He married in Pennsylvania, Esther Beard. His children were:

1. William, who died in Rockbridge, in 1829, leaving children;
2. Robert, who lived in Campbell county, and was the clerk of the county court for many years, being succeeded in office

by his son, and he by his son, both called Jack Alexander; 3. Peter, who, it is believed, went to the West; 4. Hugh, who died unmarried; 5. James, who married Peggy Lyle, of Rockbridge, and removed to Greenbrier; and daughters, Ann, Esther, Ellen and Sally. The last named was the second wife of Colonel John Wilson, of Bath county.

Archibald Alexander, born in April, 1772, seven miles east of the site of Lexington, Va., was a son of William Alexander, who was a son of Archibald. Young Alexander was educated at Liberty Hall, under the Rev. William Graham. When not yet twenty years of age, he was licensed as a preacher by Lexington Presbytery, October 1, 1791, at Winchester. He states that among the hearers of his first sermon after he was licensed, was General Daniel Morgan. Returning to Lexington late in 1791, he stopped in Staunton. "The town," he says, "contained no place of worship but an Episcopal church, which was without a minister. It was proposed that I should preach in the little Episcopal church; to which I consented with some trepidation; but when I entered the house in the evening it was crowded, and all the gentry of the town were out, including Judge Archibald Stuart," (not then Judge) "who had known me from a child." In course of time Dr. Alexander became President of Hampden-Sidney College. From that position he was transferred to Philadelphia as pastor of a church

in that city; and after a few years was appointed a professor in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died in 1851. He was a voluminous author. His wife was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. James Waddell.

Following are the abstract of wills of Archibald Alexander's father, Archibald, and also that of his uncle William Alexander:

ALEXANDER, ARCHIBALD

Rockbridge Co., Va. Will filed Feb. 1, 1780.

s. John Alexander.

s. James Alexander.

s. Samuel Alexander.

s. Archibald Alexander.

s. William Alexander.

d. Jane Alexander.

ALEXANDER, WILLIAM

Rockbridge Co., Va. Will filed June 6, 1797.

wife Nancy.

bro. Archibald Alexander.

bro. Samuel's child.

sister Jean Alexander.

s. Archibald Alexander.

s. Andrew Alexander.

s. John Alexander.

d. Phoebe Alexander.

d. Peggy Alexander.

d. Sally Alexander.

- d. Nancy Alexander.
 - d. Betsy Alexander.
 - d. Patsy Alexander.
 - s. in 1. Edward Graham.
-

Ann Hartley Alexander, wife of Gustavus Brown Tyler, was the daughter of Richard Barnes Alexander, born in Virginia, 1770, died in Kentucky, 1821, and wife, Elizabeth Toye Whiting; son of John Alexander, born January 15, 1739, and wife, Elizabeth Barnes; son of John Alexander, born July 26, 1711, died 1764, married Susanna Pearson, December 31, 1731, born December 29, 1717, died October 6, 1788; daughter of Simon Pearson, "Gent," son of Robert Alexander, born 1688, died 1735, married Ann Fowke; son of Robert Alexander, died June, 1704, and wife Frances; son of John Alexander, Sr., died 1677, of Alexandria, Virginia.
(See William and Mary Quarterly).

Among the marriage records of Virginia, the following recently discovered, have never before appeared in print:

ALEXANDER, Andrew and Isabella Paxton,
March 27, 1800, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Andrew and Nancy Aylett, May
17, 1803, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Archibald and Jane McClure,
1757, Augusta Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Archibald and Isbel Patton, by
Rev. John Brown, Dec. 31, 1795, Rockbridge
Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Cornelius and Jane Weir, March
3, 1785, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Eliz. and Samuel Tate, Feb. 1,
1785, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Elizabeth and Alexander B.
Stuart, March 20, 1821, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, James and Martha Tilford, June
17, 1794, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, James and Peggy Lyle, April 7,
1801, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, James and Mary Cavin, Oct. 9,
1804, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, James H. and Nancy McCluer,
April 13, 1820, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, John and Jenny Ocheltree, Oct. 6,
1803, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, John and Betsy Reid, Nov. 14,
1815, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Joseph R. and Sarah Alexander,
Aug. 3, 1820, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Marg't. and Wm. Scott, Nov. 4,
1790, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Marg. and Edw. Graham, Dec 31,
1792, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Margaret and Samuel W. Lyle,
Nov. 8, 1825, Rockbridge Co., Va.

ALEXANDER, Martha and Benjamin H. Rice,

- Sept. 21, 1814, Rockbridge Co., Va.
ALEXANDER, Mary and Wm. Carson, Aug. 22,
1794, Rockbridge Co., Va.
ALEXANDER, Nancy and William Turner, May
6, 1806, Rockbridge Co., Va.
ALEXANDER, Phoebe and Wm. Caruthers, Nov.
17, 1796, Rockbridge Co., Va.
ALEXANDER, Sally and James McClung, May
23, 1822, Rockbridge Co., Va.
ALEXANDER, Sarah and Dr. Samuel Campbell,
Sept. 9, 1794, Rockbridge Co., Va.
ALEXANDER, Sarah and Joseph R. Alexander,
Aug. 3, 1820, Rockbridge Co., Va.
ALEXANDER, Thos. and Eliz. Buckner, July,
1791, Campbell Co., Va.
ALEXANDER, Wm. and Elizabeth Campbell,
April 11, 1805, Rockbridge Co., Va.
ALEXANDER, William H. and Julia Caruthers,
Jan. 15, 1824, Rockbridge Co., Va.
-

The John Alexander line of Windsor, Conn., from Scotland, prior to 1644, is as follows:

Henry Foster (8) Alexander, born October 24, 1797, died December 17, 1852, son of Ebenezer (7) Alexander, born April 24, 1765, Winchester, N. H., died December 6, 1843, Boston, married June 3, 1788. Rhoda Scott. Ebenezer lived in Winchester and Chesterfield, N. H., until about 1800, when he removed to Montague, Mass. About 1820 he removed to Boston. He was son of Asa (6)

Alexander, born October 17, 1742, Winchester, N. H., died November 4, 1811, married, November 13, 1762, Mary Bond, served in the French and Indian War.

Asa (6) Alexander was son of Ebenezer (5) Alexander, born about 1715, Northfield, Mass., died July 29, 1788, married Abigail Rockwood, lived in Northfield, Mass., and Winchester, N. H., served in the French and Indian War.

Ebenezer (5) Alexander was son of Ebenezer (4) Alexander, born October 17, 1684, died January 22, 1768, married, October 10, 1709, Mehitable Buck. This Ebenezer Alexander lived in Wethersfield and Coventry, Conn., and then settled in Northfield, Mass. He was in the Louisburg expedition in 1745. Was deacon of the Northfield church for forty years, known as the "fighting deacon."

John (3) Alexander, born July 25, 1645, Windsor, Conn., died December 31, 1733, Northampton, Mass., married, November 18, 1671, Sarah Gaylord. He lived several years in Northfield, Mass., and elsewhere in Massachusetts.

George (2) Alexander, born probably in Scotland; died May 5, 1703, married, March 18, 1644, Susanna Sage. He resided first in Windsor, Conn., removing to Northampton, and later to Northfield.

His son John, was born in 1645. Daniel, another son, was wounded in King Philip's War.

Another son was Nathaniel of Northampton.

Robert Alexander, of Boston, 1684, was a Scotchman.

Thomas Alexander, one of Captain Lathrop's company, called "The Flower of Essex," was killed in the fight at "Bloody Brook," in 1675.

The Maine branch of the family is descended from David Alexander, who came to America from Ulster, Ireland, with a colony of Scotch-Irish immigrants in 1719. He settled in Topsham. He had two sons, William and James. The eldest, William, was born in Ulster, Ireland, in 1706. He lived in Harpswell, Maine, where his house was still standing in 1799. He was a soldier in the fourth Indian War, 1722-5, and a member of Captain Adam Hunter's Company, in the French and Indian War. He married Jennet, daughter of James Wilson, who came from Ulster, Ireland, to Topsham, Maine, in 1719. Their son, David, born at Harpswell in 1737, married Anna, daughter of Joseph Ewing, who was also from Ulster, Ireland. Their son, William, of Brunswick, Maine, was a Revolutionary soldier in Captain John Roger's Company, 2nd Mass. Reg't., 1779, and on the U. S. S. "Protector," in 1780. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William Campbell, whose ancestry is traced to William Campbell, of Campbellstown, Argyle-

shire, Scotland. Their son, Campbell Alexander, married Margarte Stanwood, a descendant of Philip Stanwood, who came to New England in 1652.

Descendants of the Alexander family may claim membership in the patriotic societies, through the many Revolutionary officers of the name. Among these are Abram and James, of South Carolina; Charles, Hezekiah and Elijah of North Carolina; Archibald, George, George D. and Morgan, of Virginia; James and Samuel, of Georgia; John, of Pennsylvania; Andrew, of Delaware; Henry, of Rhode Island; John, of New Hampshire; Nathaniel and Thomas, of Massachusetts; and Samuel, of New York.

Living in Boston, Mass., in 1799, were Joseph Alexander, of Orange Street, and Giles Alexander, of 52 Long Wharf. The last named was a well known merchant.

Among the early settlers of Fairfield, New Jersey in 1716, were Francis, James and Samuel Alexander, of whom little is known.

Samuel Curtis, son of Henry, born in Windsor, Conn., April 26, 1649, married Sarah Alexander, daughter of George Alexander, of Northfield, Mass., July 23, 1678.

Burials are recorded in Stark county, Ohio, as follows:

Elizabeth, daughter of W. and A. Alexander, died January 12, 1832, aged 14 years.

Ann, wife of William Alexander, died December 3, 1827, aged 42 years.

In the year 1819, the following Alexanders resided in Providence, R. I.:

Henry Alexander, constable.

William H. Alexander, accountant.

John Alexander, portrait painter.

Among the Alexander marriages recorded in New York State is that of Robert Alexander and Jane Willett, March 5, 1772.

New York Alexanders in the Revolution are recorded as follows:

Alexander Alexander, Albany Co.

Hugh Alexander, Albany Co.

Jonathan Alexander, State line.

Robert Alexander, Albany Co.

Rufus Alexander, State levies.

Sandy Alexander, Albany Co.

The Pennsylvania Muster Rolls for 1776-1783, show the following Alexanders:

Samuel Alexander, Oct. 10, 1776, 1st Lieut.

William Alexander, Aug. 1, 1777, gunner.

Alex. Alexander, Oct. 14, 1776, private.

James Alexander, 1783, Northumberland Co., private.

William Alexander, 1781, Westmoreland Co., private.

William Alexander, 1780, Bedford Co., private.

Robert Alexander, 1781, Bedford Co., private.

Hugh Alexander, 1781, Bedford Co., private.

James Alexander, 1781, Bedford Co., private.

William Alexander, 1782, Cumberland Co., private.

Samuel Alexander, 1782, Cumberland Co., private.

David Alexander, 1782, Bedford Co., private.

Francis Alexander, 1782, Cumberland Co., private.

The following Alexanders have been members of Congress since 1776:

ALEXANDER, Adam R., a representative from Tennessee, in 1823, died in Jackson, Tenn.

ALEXANDER, Armstead M., a representative from Missouri, in 1883, died in Paris, Mo., Nov. 7, 1892.

ALEXANDER, De Alva Stanwood, a representative from New York, in 1897, born in Richmond, Me., July 17, 1846.

ALEXANDER, Evans, a representative from North Carolina, in 1806, died Oct. 28, 1809.

ALEXANDER, Henry Porteus, a representative

from New York, in 1849, died in Little Falls, N. Y., Feb. 22, 1867.

ALEXANDER, James, Jr., a representative from Ohio, 1837; native of Maryland, died in St. Clairsville, Ohio, August 6, 1846.

ALEXANDER, John, a representative from Ohio, in 1813.

ALEXANDER, Joshua Willis, a representative from Missouri, in 1907, born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 22, 1852.

ALEXANDER, Mark, a representative from Virginia, in 1819, born in Mecklenburg county, Va., Feb. 7, 1792, died in Scotland Neck, Halifax County, N. C., Oct. 7, 1883.

ALEXANDER, Nathaniel, a representative from North Carolina, in 1805, born in Mecklenburg county, N. C., March 5, 1756, died in Salisbury, N. C., March 8, 1808.

ALEXANDER, Robert, a delegate from Maryland in 1775.

ALEXANDER, Sydenham Benoni, a representative from North Carolina, in 1891, born in Mecklenburg county, N. C., Dec. 8, 1840.

Stephen Alexander was born at Schenectady, New York in 1806, and died in 1883. He was appointed adjunct professor of mathematics in the College of New Jersey in 1834, and professor of astronomy on the creation of the Chair in 1840. In 1845 he was transferred to the professorship

of mathematics, which he exchanged again for the professorship of mechanics and astronomy in 1854. He retired from this position in 1878. He was appointed to conduct the expedition to Labrador to observe the solar eclipse in 1860, and a similar expedition to the West in 1869.

The following Alexanders are listed as missing heirs or entitled to estates, by the publisher of GENEALOGY, 45 William St., New York:

Alexander, James, Detroit, Mich.

Alexander, James, Brooklyn, New York.

Alexander, Matthews, New York, 1869.

Alexander, Samuel, New York.

Alexander, William K., Danville, Virginia, 1875.



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